

Appln. No. 10/814,989

Attorney Docket No. 8627-372
Client Reference No. PA-5270-CIP

II. Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraphs [0044] through [0046] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0044] For example, an alternative embodiment shown in FIGs. 13A and 13B as a grasping device **[[200]] 10** includes an actuation section 24 with a retraction mechanism **[[202]] 200**. The retraction mechanism includes a spring **[[204]] 202** mounted about the handle 20 and partially about the snap coupling 98. The spring **[[204]] 202** extends between a face 206 of the slide member 100 and a flange **[[208]] 204** attached to the snap coupling 98. The flange **[[208]] 204** may be a separate piece mounted about the snap coupling 98 or it may be an integrally molded with the snap coupling 98 such that the flange **[[208]] 204** is an extension of the snap coupling 98. As illustrated, the spring **[[204]] 202** is a helical spring, which can be made from, for example, stainless steel or from any other suitable material. However, the spring **[[204]] 202** need not be limited to the type of spring show in FIGs. 13A and 13B. The spring **[[204]] 202** can be any suitable mechanism that when released from a compressed state returns to an elongated state.

[0045] The spring **[[204]] 202** biases the actuation section 24 toward the rear or proximal end of the handle 20. Hence, the spring **[[204]] 202** biases the grasping portion 70 in a retracted state within the outer sheath 12. Thus, the physician can guide the distal end of the sheath at a site of interest within the patient's body before actuating the grasping device **[[200]] 10**. Once the sheath 12 is located at the site of interest, the physician can push the actuation section 24 forward to push the grasping portion 70 out of the distal end of the sheath 12 and then manipulate the grasping device **[[200]] 10** so that one of the loops 74 captures the item to be retrieved from the patient's body. Once the item is within one of the loops 74, the

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physician can slowly or quickly reduce the resistive force imparted to the spring [[204]] 202 through the slide member 100 to let the spring force of the spring [[204]] 202 push the actuation section 24 toward the rear of the grasping device [[200]] 10. By doing so, the actuation section 24 draws the grasping portion 70 back into the sheath 12 until the item of interest is securely grasped between one of the loops 74 and the distal tip section 54.

[[0046]] Since the physician has to exert a force to the actuation section 24 only when an item is to be grasped by the grasping portion 70, the retraction mechanism [[202]] 200 can reduce physician fatigue. Moreover, the retraction system acts as a resistive feed-back force so that the physician can precisely control the operation of the grasping portion 70.